

To whom it may concern,

As both an educator AND parent of students in the state I am gravely concerned that the implementation of Common Core in Connecticut has been poorly planned and executed.

The fact that NO Connecticut teachers were involved in the creation of these standards is mind-boggling.

Those who have the most experience and first-hand knowledge of classrooms, students and educational practice (teachers) being excluded is extremely insulting to teachers and demonstrates that those who made this decision are either incredibly ignorant about education, or have some political agenda driving this decision.

The public demands more from our leaders and elected officials. You are not serving us (and especially not our children) when you make decisions this faulty and short-sighted.

Some points that I urge you to consider:

1. Policymakers must listen to feedback from teachers about what is going well and not well
2. Teachers need to be at the center, not the distant periphery, of standard setting and implementation.
3. Give teachers the time to plan, train, and collaborate
4. Appropriately equip classrooms
5. Give students more time to succeed at the new, more rigorous standards before they are tested.

I urge the new state CCSS Working Group to convene immediately with teachers playing a central role in addressing the botched implementation of CCSS. The CCSS Working Group must include representatives who are teachers, parents, administrators, superintendents, and local school board members for its work to have any validity.

Truly concerned,

Stephan T. Stacey Jr.